

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1377

S.P. 572

In Senate, April 1, 2025

**Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Evaluate Potential
Regulation of the Vehicle Towing Industry and the Impact on State
Agencies and Industries**

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on March 28, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.

1 **Preamble. Whereas,** motor vehicles are an essential part of everyday life for many
2 people residing in Maine; and

3 **Whereas,** deceptive, irresponsible and predatory towing practices impose financial
4 burdens and logistical hardships on those who rely on their vehicles for everyday use; and

5 **Whereas,** the towing industry affects many different industries and state agencies
6 because of the differing ways the industry conducts its business; now, therefore, be it

7 **Sec. 1. Working group. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of State
8 shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to
9 evaluate potential solutions regarding regulation and enforcement of regulation of the
10 towing industry.

11 **Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint
12 Rule 353, the working group membership is as follows:

- 13 1. One member of the Senate who serves on the Joint Standing Committee on
14 Transportation, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 15 2. One member of the House of Representatives who serves on the Joint Standing
16 Committee on Transportation, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 17 3. One member representing the towing industry, appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 18 4. One member representing credit unions, appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 19 5. One member representing large financial institutions, appointed by the Secretary of
20 State;
- 21 6. One member representing the insurance industry, appointed by the Secretary of
22 State;
- 23 7. One member representing the legal interests of people earning low income in the
24 State, appointed by the Secretary of State;
- 25 8. One member representing a State Police traffic division, appointed by the Chief of
26 the State Police;
- 27 9. One member representing the consumer protection division of the Office of the
28 Attorney General, appointed by the Attorney General;
- 29 10. The deputy secretary of state having oversight over the Department of the Secretary
30 of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles or the deputy secretary's designee; and
- 31 11. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee.

32 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Legislators appointed by the President of the
33 Senate and the Speaker of the House serve as cochairs of the working group.

34 **Sec. 4. Compensation. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, members
35 of the working group may not be compensated for their work on the working group, but
36 legislative members may receive the legislative per diem.

37 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the working group shall:

- 38 1. Identify and examine potential methods for regulating the towing industry to protect
39 drivers from deceptive, predatory or irresponsible practices;

2. Identify and examine how identified regulations under subsection 1 could be most efficiently and comprehensively enforced;
3. Consider how any identified regulations under subsection 1 would impact the agencies, industries and citizen groups represented on the working group and any potential further impacts to agencies, industries and citizen groups not represented; and
4. Make recommendations based on the findings of the working group.

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group; Legislative Council staff support is not authorized.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 3, 2025, the working group shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The joint standing committee may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

SUMMARY

This resolve creates a working group to identify and examine potential methods for regulating the vehicle towing industry.